PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application Number. :

09/992,392

Confirmation Number.

ber. : 7604

Applicants

: David K. Locke et al.: November 6, 2001

Filed TC/A.U.

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Examiner

: Hoel, Matthew

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: 30,223

Mail Stop AF Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

AMENDMENT & RESPONSE TO THE FINAL OFFICE ACTION MAILED MAY 18, 2006

Dear Commissioner:

This paper is being submitted in reply to the Final Office Action, mailed May 18, 2006, for which the three-month date for response is August 18, 2005. In response to the Final Office Action, the Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to consider the following remarks.

The Applicants' Listing of Claims begins on page 2 of this paper.

The Applicants' Remarks begin on page 7 of this paper.